

LAS VEGAS METROPOLITAN POLICE DEPARTMENT
VOLUNTARY STATEMENT
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EVENT#: 171001-3519

SPECIFIC CRIME: ACTIVE SHOOTER / MURDER

DATE OCCURRED: 10-01-17

TIME OCCURRED: 2208 HOURS

LOCATION OF OCCURRENCE: MANDALAY BAY RESORT AND CASINO
3950 S. LAS VEGAS BOULEVARD
LAS VEGAS, NV 89119

CITY OF LAS VEGAS

CLARK COUNTY

NAME OF PERSON GIVING STATEMENT: OFFICER JACOBY BURNS (JB), P# 9805

DOB:

SOCIAL SECURITY #:

RACE:

SEX:

HEIGHT:

WEIGHT:

HAIR:

EYES:

HOME ADDRESS:

PHONE 1:

WORK ADDRESS:

PHONE 2:

The following is the transcription of a tape-recorded interview conducted by DETECTIVE S. KEITH (SK), P# 9190, LVMPD FORCE INVESTIGATION TEAM, on 10-03-17 at 1600 hours. Also present is Las Vegas Police Protective Association representative M. Hamm (MH), P# 6675.

SK: All right operator this is Detective Keith P# 9190 with the Force Investigation Team. Conducted a recording with last name of Burns Baker-Union-Robert-Nora-Sam. First name of Jacoby - John-Adam-Charlie-Ocean-Baker-Yellow. P# 9805 call sign. Uh, on the date of event was 3 Ida 33. [REDACTED] Area command is South Central Area Command Squad, uh, SC33. RDO's is Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday is Thursday. Uh, hours are 1430 to 0030 and the vehicle number that day was 10813. This interview's in reference to an officer involved shooting that occurred on 10-1-2017. The area of 3950 South Las Vegas Boulevard. Event# 1710013519.

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Today's date is 10-3-2017. The time is 1600. This interview is being conducted at LVMPD Headquarters, uh, also present is PPA representative Hamm - H-A-M-M 6875. Are you aware this interview oh...

MH: 6675.

SK: 6675 is the p number. My bad. Are you aware this interview's being recorded?

JB: Yes.

SK: Okay. And before we get started, uh, what uniform were you wearing that day?

JB: Uniform of the day. Our, uh, standard tans.

SK: Okay. So you're aware that we're obviously here, uh, in reference to the active shooter that took place at the Route 91 festival?

JB: Yes.

SK: Just tell me how you learned about the call and what actions you took.

JB: Um, I was actually just getting ready to check out, uh, to lunch and I heard a unit - I don't know where they - area command they were working at. They came over our radio channel and asked our dispatcher to please assign them to the active shooter on s- uh, comma- convention center.

SK: Mmm.

JB: ...because the radio was too hectic to get on. So I switched my car radio over and heard the chaos going on. So, uh, myself and the officer that I eat lunch with - we

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both, uh, responded directly from, uh, the area of Warm Springs in Las Vegas Boulevard which is a little less than half a mile from Mandalay Bay.

SK: Mm-hm.

JB: Um, as we were enroute, uh, I advised - I turned on my, uh, portable radio and I advised South Central Dispatch to put, uh, my partner and I on the call. Um, and then switched back over to convention center, um, and continued northbound on the Boulevard. Uh, when we initially arrived the officers in the festival were putting out information that the shooter was inside the venue. At this point we didn't have any idea that the rounds were coming from Mandalay Bay.

SK: Mmm.

JB: So, um, we continued north. We stopped our vehicles, uh, about 100 feet north of the marquee on the eastside of the Boulevard. Uh, the Mandalay Bay marquee.

SK: Mmm.

JB: Um, I got outta my vehicle, my partner got outta his. He grabbed his shotgun. I went to the back of my vehicle to get my, uh, rifle and my, uh, rifle plates - my heavy armor. And, um, at that point we - the rounds started coming again and it was obvious then that they were coming from Mandalay Bay and we just happened to basically park right in front of it.

SK: Mm-hm.

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JB: So we took, uh, cover behind my patrol vehicle. Uh, we couldn't get in there to turn the lights off or anything else. Um, the suspect shot probably 100, 120 rounds give or take, um, and as soon as the gun went quiet again, uh, my partner and I were discussing what we were gonna do and we decided we needed to get outta there. We can't stay behind the car. The car's not gonna provide cover from these rounds. So, um, he took off first running southwest across the Boulevard. Um, and once he got to cover on the other side, um, I grabbed another officer that had also got down behind my vehicle and we both took off. We stopped halfway, got cover behind two large palm trees. Uh, waited for a second and then took off again and, uh, up towards Mandalay Bay property.

SK: Mm-hm.

JB: Um, we entered in through - is the Grandview? Is that what that - the Grandview. Whatever the - their small, uh, like, timeshare kind of...

SK: I'm not sure.

JB: There - there's a smaller hotel right next to Mandalay. It's the Grandview or the - something, like, that. Now, um, we entered through that and we made our way through the concourse in there into Mandalay Bay where we initially grabbed a security guard and told him to get us to surveillance. Um, h- because at this point nobody knew where the - the rounds were coming from. Uh, we had a pretty good idea. While - while we were out behind the truck we could look up on the wall and we could see the fire coming down from the - the casino window.

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SK: Mm-hm.

JB: But we didn't - I didn't have time or the guts to keep my head popped up that long to try and count down how many floors so...

SK: Right.

JB: Um, excuse me. So as we were getting ready to go to surveillance there was another group of three officers that were coming in. It was a, uh, SWAT officer, a, uh canine officer and I think another canine officer. And, um, so my partner and I linked up with them. I told the other guy that was running behind me - I couldn't even pick him out of a lineup at this point to go with the security guard to surveillance and start trying to get intel. Um, at this point the information came out over their air that there was, uh, an officer on the 31st floor and he said he could hear the rounds coming from upstairs...

SK: Mm-hm.

JB: ...so he knew they were on the 32nd, and then shortly after that we got the news that the security guard had been shot in the leg on the 32nd floor as well.

SK: Mmm.

JB: So, um, it took a couple of seconds but we got security to get to, um, their main office to unlock an elevator for us. The, uh - the elevator got us up to the 28th floor I think it was. Um, and then we had to make the rest of the way on foot up the stairs. We did that. When we got to the 32nd floor, um, initially we started saying, "Okay we're

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gonna have to clear some of these rooms before we're gonna walk past 'em." So we started by clearing the in-suite. Um, nobody's in there. And then we got the intel that, uh - from security guards that started walking towards us that there were officers already perched in f- in the hallway, excuse me, about halfway down facing the, uh, suspects door. And, um, they were holding the door. So we went to the center of all three towers where the elevators are at...

SK: Mm-hm.

JB: ...um, we met up with, uh, Sergeant Matchko and a couple other officers that were there and we made the decision that, uh, we were going to go back down one floor, um, by stairs and then over to the actual, uh, stairway that would open us right next to the shooter's door. Um, as we got there we met up with a few other officers that were in the area. Um, and we all kinda stacked up in the stairway. Uh, the swat officer then - after a minute or two of us being there we - we started shutting lights off, pulling lights outta the ceiling 'cause we were backlit really bad. And, um, he eventually said, "Well we need to get in the room because we don't know what's goin' on. We can't have him start shooting again." So he had two explosive breaches on his, uh, chest rig. So, um, we opened the door, we covered the hallway. He went and put the breach on the, uh, suspect's door, um, and he said, "What we're going to do is we're gonna blow the door and see if he engages. If he doesn't engage we're gonna go in." And so we stacked and, uh, the, uh - he goes, "Breach - breach - breach." Bang - blows the door off and then gave it about three seconds. No gunfire so everybody, uh, in the stack went in. Um, I held next to the door holding the long,

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uh excuse me. I held next to the door holding, uh, a door to the adjacent room that's next to his suite.

SK: Mm-hm.

JB: Which was directly in front of the, uh, door that we were standing at. That's when we noticed that he had cameras set up outta that door facing the stairs. Um, the, uh, SWAT came back and said he needs his second charge because he - they realized that he was in the next room that we were holding the door on. So, um, he, uh, blew that door off and they made entry in there and that's when they found out that he had, uh, already killed himself. So, um, when they finished there, uh, we, uh, went out into the hall and held the door to the room and, uh, waited for relief for that. And then as, uh, SWAT Team started to arrive, they asked us to please start clearing all the room again even though they'd already been evacuated - just to make sure.

SK: Mm-hm.

JB: And we actually ended up finding probably 20 people that were still in there that they - guess were hiding and didn't come out. But...

SK: Okay. Just to back up a little. So you...

JB: Mm-hm.

SK: ...guys went down one level right?

JB: Yes.

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SK: And then you came back up. So when you came back up which door did you actually come out of - the stairwell door? Was it right next to the suspect or was it in one of the other corridors?

JB: Right next to the suspect.

SK: Okay. Did you guys have any issues getting through that door?

JB: Yes it was - it was, uh - it was screwed shut.

SK: Okay.

JB: And, um, one of the units - I'm not sure if it was the, uh, SWAT unit or another officer had a, uh, like, a 12 inch long pry bar. Like, the kind of thing you'd use for, like, removing nails.

SK: Mm-hm.

JB: And we were able to use that to get the door open.

SK: Okay.

JB: Um, the - they had a- I'm sorry. They had actually informed us, uh, when we were on the 32nd floor - 'cause we were asking is he going to be able to get down the stairs and they said, "No." Because somebody had already gone up there and drilled the door shut.

SK: Okay.

JB: So somebody from the ho- uh, hotel had already gone up there and drilled it shut.

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SK: Okay. So you guys breached that door - well somebody breaches that door s- that stairwell door so you guys are in there now. Now do you go through the door to the suite or do you go through the door to just the regular room? Was that the first door you guys went through or...

JB: So when you come through the stairs...

SK: Mm-hm.

JB: ...there's a door into the actual stairway.

SK: Mm-hm.

JB: Then there's a small, um, like, a - a small, like, room area with another door. So when you enter to go to the stairwell you open this door. That door closes. Then you open the next door and then...

SK: Mm-hm.

JB: ...you go down the stairs. So we open the first door, we go into the next area and then one of the units that was there had a, uh, ballistic shield. We used that to prop the door open to kinda get some intel on exactly where we were, distances and all those kind of things.

SK: Mm-hm.

JB: And then that's when the decision was made of what we were going to do. So, uh, then that's when the SWAT unit got his explosive charges and, uh, very - very quietly

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went around the corner and set it up on the door and then came back and then we breached.

SK: Okay. And then you just held that door?

JB: Then I held the door and then after, um - after they, uh, went in to do the second breach - then we moved out into the hallway and, uh, away from the - the door that was, uh, to the adjacent room. And, uh, held that until they were basically, like, "Okay here we are."

SK: Okay. Did you ever see the suspect at all?

JB: I did not see the suspect. I was partially in the main - the main suite.

SK: Mm-hm.

JB: And then, um, but I didn't go - I didn't wanna go any further in 'cause it's already he's - it's clear he's done. There's no reason to go in there.

SK: Okay. All right. Um, is there anything else you wanna add or you think we should know about or something of significance? No?

JB: No.

SK: Anything from your side?

MH: No. Nothing.

JB: I hope there - I mean, are we allowed to say good things or does that really matter for this?

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SK: Just what - whatever you wanna say man.

JB: Um, we - I just think everybody - I n- the o- the only person there that I knew was the guy that was on my squad. Everybody else had no idea and, uh - uh, we killed it.

SK: Mm-hm.

JB: Like, we did a really good job.

SK: Yeah.

JB: Our guys just, like, uh - it's a testament to training. Like, we did a really - really good job. So that's all.

MH: Um - um, just one thing. Um, Officer Burns when you say, "We killed it." Do you mean...

JB: Sorry. I mean, we did a - I'm using slang.

MH: (Unintelligible).

JB: Our - our department did an outstanding job of, uh, taking the training that we have learned over the last probably eight or nine year's specific to this kind of an attack and, uh, putting it into practice. And integrating into teams seamlessly even with people that we don't know. How's that?

MH: That's better. Thank you.

JB: Okay. Sorry.

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SK: All right. Excellent. All right operator, uh, this ends the interview. Time is 1615 hours. Uh, same persons are present.

THIS VOLUNTARY STATEMENT WAS COMPLETED AT LVMPD HEADQUARTERS, 400 S. MARTIN LUTHER KING BOULEVARD, LAS VEGAS, NV 89106, ON THE 3RD DAY OF OCTOBER 2017 AT 1615 HOURS.

SK: (NET TRANSCRIPTS)

FIT2017-032

Reviewed by M6239S

10-08-17